

## MAJORTHEME D: MAN AND WOMAN

### SUBTHEME I: FAMILY LIFE

A family is a basic unit of a society where members are born, loved and brought up. It can also be defined as the smallest human community where members live together as one.

#### ROLES/ FUNCTIONS/ IMPORTANCE OF A FAMILY

The family transmits life through producing children hence ensuring continuity in life.

The family helps to preserve wealth like land for its members e.g. among the Baganda, ancestral land is owned communally and it is acquired through inheritance.

The family provides basic needs which helps to improve the standard of living of the members.

The family provides members with love and affection.

The family helps in transmitting values like humility hence harmony in the community.

The family introduces its members to firm religious beliefs and practices which are important in the spiritual growth of members.

The family provides guidance and counseling to the members which help direct them towards living a better life.

The family fosters unity in the society as different families are related to one another.

The family caters for the sexual needs of the members more so the parents.

The family also acts as a source of revenue to the government as members pay taxes.

The family helps in protection of its own name and keeping the secrets of the members.

The family also works for the benefit of its members by providing financial support.

#### TYPES OF FAMILIES

##### 1. NUCLEAR FAMILY

This is a family consisting of the father, mother and their biological children.

#### ADVANTAGES OF A NUCLEAR FAMILY

Decision making is easy since parents can easily agree on family issues.

Such a family has a strong bond built within the members as all children belong to the same parents.

The family members enjoy better standard of living since they are usually few.

There are high chances for saving as members are few and the expenditure is usually low.

Disciplining of children is easy because those to impart discipline are few and all children are of the same parents.

The family head can easily provide the basic needs of the members given the small size of such a family.

It is easy to keep family secrets hence assured family image and security.

Children receive adequate parental love and care because they are few and from the same parents.

It is easy to bring up children in a God-fearing manner as supervising the few children is easy for the parents.

There are limited chances of spreading diseases given the small number of members.

There is equal and appropriate sharing of resources among parents and their few biological children.

There is reduced tension and pressure on the family head as he deals with few members.

The family enjoys stability as members understand one another very well.

#### DISADVANTAGES OF A NUCLEAR FAMILY

Members are few to provide security in case of any attack.

There is shallow knowledge about other relatives hence incest.

Solving family conflicts without external help is hard.

In the event of a calamity like death the entire family can be finished as they all stay in the same house.

Children are exposed to a lot of risks like kidnapping if parents are working. This is because children will stay at home alone.

There is inadequate labour force as members are very few.

Children may become selfish in future as they lack the virtue of sharing.

Children may become social misfits due to lack of exposure to the outside world and limited socialization.

There is boredom and monotony since members keep on seeing the same people.

Parents are likely to live lonely lives the moment children become independent.

It is difficult to impart cultural values into children given the fact that parents are ever busy.

#### 2. EXTENDED FAMILY

This is a kind of family consisting of parents, their biological children and other relatives.

#### ADVANTAGES OF AN EXTENDED FAMILY

There is enough labour force due to a big number of members there.

Passing on culture of the society is easy due to existence of grandparents at home.

Parents have liberty to do their outside duties without worry as children are under the care of other relatives at home.

It enhances a sense of belonging, solidarity and co-operation among members of the community as they live together.

It gives room for interaction with other relatives hence promoting unity and love among members.

There is strong security in case of any attack given the big number of members.

It helps in promoting strict discipline since children are raised collectively.

In case of any problem, it is easy to console and comfort the family members.

One receives enough company from the other many members.

It gives chance to the family head to test his administrative ability in trying to maintain harmony in the family.

Cases of incest and other forms of immorality are limited because members know each other.

The many talents and skills of the family members benefit the whole community.

The elderly and sick can be easily taken care of by those family members who are working.

There is consensus and consulting of members in case of major decisions to be taken.

#### DISADVANTAGES OF EXTENDED FAMILY

It is very expensive to maintain the family members.

Decision making is difficult as a lot of consultations from dependents may be needed.

It is difficult to accommodate the so many relatives.

The family head faces a lot of pressure in trying to cater for the dependents.

The family secrets are easily exposed to other people outside the family.

There are many conflicts in an extended family setting.

There can be cases of indiscipline within the family as the family head may fail to control the big family.

The standard of living is generally poor in an extended family.

Incest is likely to occur as distant relatives may be allowed to share the same rooms.

It is easy for diseases to spread due to incest and a man having many wives.

It creates dependency as some people fail to work hard expecting to depend on their rich relatives.

It leads to uncalled for expenses in trying to organize feasts or in the event of visits by relatives.

Witchcraft may be common as every member wants to win the favour of the family head.

## REASONS FOR THE CONTINUED EXISTANCE OF EXTENDED FAMILIES TODAY

The influence of a strong cultural belief mainly by the elderly people e.g. among the Baganda, grandparents are interested in preserving the Kiganda norms in all relatives living together as a family.

The existence of poverty in other families prompts the existence of extended families.

Death in other families may force relatives to come in to give a hand especially if the family head is the one who has died.

It is also due to old age since the elderly are always taken care of by their relatives.

Some people prefer extended families for prestige. They want to show that they can look after a big family.

The nature of jobs today forces the working class to bring in relatives to stay with children as they are ever away.

Religion is also responsible for the existence of extended families as Christianity stresses oneness and love.

Poor health has also contributed to the existence of extended families since sick people are always taken care of by their relatives.

Unemployment also explains the existence of extended families as the unemployed stay with relatives as they look for jobs.

## REASONS WHY EXTENDED FAMILIES ARE DISAPPEARING TODAY

Fear for high costs in terms of catering for such a big family.

Influence of modern education where children grow up in boarding schools.

It is due to increased cases of rural to urban migration forcing one to have a smaller manageable family.

Increased urbanization which forces people to ignore their distant relatives.

It is also due to inter-marriage where people disrespect their cultural values.

There is limited accommodation especially in towns.

It is also due to existence of deadly diseases which discourage free association of family members.

The existence of communication channels like internet which keeps people in touch even when apart.

The increased search for jobs has made people move far hence destroying family ties.

It is also due to increased cases of people living single lives and hate being disturbed by family obligations.

Children these days are undisciplined forcing parents to isolate them.

Availability of working mothers leaving none at home to care for the big family.

It is also due to wars which disrupt families e.g. in northern Uganda during the LRA war many families were disintegrated.

## TYPES OF EXTENDED FAMILIES

## 1. PARILINEAL FAMILY

This is where status and wealth are inherited through the father's line.

### FEATURES/ CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EXTENDED FAMILY

The husband is the bread winner.

The husband has a right to discipline his wife for any offence committed at times in the presence of children.

The husband has a right to marry other wives without necessarily seeking the consent of the first wife.

It is mostly the sons who have the right to inherit their father's property like land.

The husband enjoys more respect than the wife.

The husband's word is always final and his authority tends to dominate the affairs of the family.

The relatives of both husband and wife can live together in the family.

Children take on the father's tribe and clan.

All family property belongs to the husband.

The man normally marries young girls for easy disciplining.

## 2. MATRILINEAL FAMILY

This is a kind of family headed by the wife.

### FEATURES/ CHARACTERISTICS OF A MATRILINEAL FAMILY

All the family property belongs to the woman.

There is shared authority between husband and wife.

Decision making is done by both husband and wife.

The wife is given more respect than the husband.

The wife is the family's bread winner.

Both boys and girls have equal rights when it comes to inheritance of property.

The family is always monogamous.

The wife has a right to discipline the husband by either denying him food or denying him sex.

The woman normally marries a young man whom she can fully control.

The woman normally stays with a number of her relatives to give her protection.

## FEATURES/ CHARACTERISTICS OF FAMILY LIFE TODAY

Parents prefer having fewer children due to economic constraints.

There are more nuclear families today.

There is an increasing number of children headed families.

Families are built on individualism hence selfishness.

There are many cases of adults who prefer single life.

There are many families headed by women.

Education of children is now a family responsibility.

Men have opted for monogamy due to financial constraints.

Roles between men and women are changing as women have now taken on roles which were previously for men.

Family instability is on the increase.

Intermarriages are becoming common.

Cases of single parenthood are on the increase e.g. *Hon Judith Babirye of Buikwe is a single parents for all her children.*

Family planning is on the increase due to the need to space children and produce a manageable number.

The family tends to employ other people like house maids to do most of the domestic work.

There is a wide generation gap as children and parents have little understanding of each other's way of life.

All children in the family have equal rights especially to protection and on family property.

Equality of all members in the family is stressed.

## GENERATION GAP

It refers to the differences between the various age brackets especially between the young and the old.

## CAUSES OF GENERATION GAP

The nature of jobs which keep parents away from home leaving children to grow on their own

Some parents are conservative even on things which look irrelevant to the young.

It is due to emphasis on children's right making it hard for parents to have full control over their children.

Some parents are too irresponsible. They even fail to provide basic needs to their children.

Some parents ignore the views of their children making the children feel neglected.

The education system which keeps children away from home most of the time hence losing touch with parents

Differences in the level of income which makes children feel less considered.

Permissiveness of our society which makes children feels they can do whatever they want.

The free media with some TV programs tending to draw a line between parents and children e.g. as children prefer to watch soaps, parents have a taste for economic programs on TV hence friction.

The influence of western culture where some parents grant independence to their children at an early stage

Peer influence also causes generation gap because children tend to listen more to their age mates than parents.

Decline in African cultural values where some children are too indisciplined to the disappointment of their parents

The forms of leisure have greatly changed increasing distance between the young and the old e.g. The young prefer disco music to hiring traditional dancers commonly known as 'engomaenganda'

Modern dress fashions generally upset the old yet the young are very comfortable with them e.g. urban girls prefer wearing kundi shows yet the old look at it as indecent.

Modern wireless technology has also widened the gap between the elders and the youth e.g. after getting exposed to sexual websites like [www.worldsex.com](http://www.worldsex.com) children can hardly take parents' advice to abstain.

Differences in political affiliation also lead to generation gap e.g. many youth are vocal supporters of Kizza Besigye yet old prefer Museveni.

#### HOW GENERATION GAP CAN BE BRIDGED IN CHRISTIAN FAMILIES.

Through showing love to children

Through taking up responsibility of parenting children rather than leaving them to house maids

Through disciplining children

Through exercising self-control while disciplining

Through being careful about the types of friends both parents and children take on

Through prayer e.g. Joseph and Mary used to pray for with their son Jesus

Through reading scriptures in regard to proper child parent relations

Through visiting religious leaders for guidance and counseling e.g. in Kampala many parents and children seek guidance from pastor Garry Skinner of KPC

Through being patient when the efforts to bridge the gap takes long to yield results e.g. King David was patient with his rebellious son Absalom

Through accepting back rebellious children with open hands e.g. in the parable of the prodigal son the father accepted back his son with hope that he would become better.

Through respect for each other

By children exercising unconditional obedience Exodus 20:12

By being humble to parents

By forgiving when wronged

By parents being role models to their children.

#### PROBLEMS/ CAUSES OF INSTABILITY IN MODERN AFRICAN FAMILIES

Poverty

Domestic violence

Indiscipline among children

Some families have a problem of bastard children

Barrenness

Alcoholism

Existence of incurable diseases

Anti-social behaviour

Negative influence of in-laws

Marital unfaithfulness

Generation gap

Political differences in families

Religious differences

Failure to satisfy the sexual desires especially on the side of parents

Influence of drugs

Parental negligence

Cultural differences due to inter marriages

Selfishness in some families



## EFFECTS/ PROBLEMS CAUSED BY HIV/AIDS IN MODERN FAMILIES

Poverty

Discrimination

Orphanage

Divorce

Poor health

Suicide

Death

Family neglect

Marital unfaithfulness

Child headed families

Single house holds

Witchcraft

Alcoholism

Unemployment

## HOW THE CHURCH IS HELPING FAMILIES WITH THE PROBLEM OF HIV/ AIDS

By providing health services at a fair price e.g. at Kitovu hospital a catholic church founded hospital, charges are affordable.

By providing employment opportunities to family members e.g. Masaka diocese has many schools which offer jobs to teachers from such families.

By providing homes to the disadvantaged family members e.g. Watoto children's home was established to house orphans

By acting as agents for forgiveness and reconciliation in case of conflicts

By putting up income generating projects

By providing basic needs like education to such people

By providing recreational centres where family members can spend their free time

By providing guidance and counseling services

By protecting marriage relationships

By teaching and encouraging love

By teaching and preaching equality of all people

By forming dynamic groups e.g. mothers' union which helps to advise family members

## UNDERSTANDING/ CHARACTERISTICS OF FAMILY LIFE IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

The family was extended in nature

The man was the head of the family

Roles in the family were divided according to age and sex e.g. Among the Basoga men would go for hunting as women looked after children.

Children were very important in a family e.g. among the Nandi boys were used as warriors

The education of children was a community responsibility e.g. among the Baganda the aunt, uncle, grandparents and other senior members in the community would pass on sex education to the young.

All the children in the family belonged to the man e.g. among the Baganda if the mother was from the Nte clan and father from Nkima clan, all children belonged to the Nkima clan

Discipline was very strict e.g. among the Baganda all senior community members were duty bound to impart discipline in to the young.

Marriage was compulsory for every grown up member of the family e.g. among the Basoga if one reached adult age and chose to remain single he was taken as a social misfit.

There was the practice of inheriting widows e.g. among the Basoga they had a common slogan that 'mukamugandawotwalabutwale' meaning that was free to take his brother's wife.

Inheritance of the family property was from the father's line

Men were allowed to marry more than one wife

Each family had a common burial ground e.g. among the Baganda they had 'ebijja' where family members were buried.

Each family had a shrine from which they could perform their religious rituals

Initiation rites were common in African families

Men were superior to women so women were required to be submissive to men in the family

The family was built on a permanent basis

## PROBLEMS COMMON IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL FAMILIES

Women held an inferior status and less considered in the family e.g. among the Baganda women were meant to kneel down while greeting any male in the community.

Domestic violence was common e.g. among the Acholi beating a wife signified mutual love yet it caused injuries

Food taboos existed in African families e.g. among the Baganda women were prohibited from eating chicken

Widow inheritance was a common practice as women could be forcefully taken by the male relative of the deceased husband

Divorce was common where men were allowed to send away their wives yet women were denied chance to initiate a divorce

Poverty was also common as at times members lacked requirements in life

Forced marriages was recognized and accepted in African families so conflicts were bound to occur e.g. among the Bahima wives were chosen through abduction.

Early marriages existed in many traditional families e.g. among the San of South African girls married at around 8 years

Diseases like small pox were common which claimed the life of some family members

Marital unfaithfulness was the order of the day since it were only women to be punished so men had the opportunity to commit adultery

Witchcraft was common in African families this resulted into conflicts and death

There was witch hunting as anything bad was attributed to a particular cause so at times the innocent were victimized.

#### IMPORTANCE OF CHILDREN IN AFRICAN FAMILIES

Children prolonged the life of the family e.g. among the Basoga when one died his name would be passed on to a new born child through reincarnation.

Children provided labour for the family e.g. among the Bakiga children and their mothers would go to the shamba to dig as the father enjoyed 'mulamba' a local brew.

Children provided wealth to the family e.g. among the Bahima, a girl child would fetch a lot of dowry which was wealth for the family.

Children also offered security against external attacks e.g. among the Masai, boys would be recruited in the age regiments to fight as warriors.

Producing children was a proof that the married couple was normal.

Children helped to seal marriage as no one would wish to divorce and leave behind her children.

Children also expanded the bond of kinship.

Children brought happiness to the family members as parents were always happy to see their children play.

Children always gave company to their parents especially mothers who were always left at home as fathers went for hunting.

Children were also taken as a source of blessings from the ancestors meaning that the parents were in good terms with the ancestors.

Children especially boys were the heirs to the family as they would inherit property and status of the father up on death.

Children provided comfort and satisfaction to their parents e.g. among the Baganda, a woman's love kept on growing as she continued producing children.

Children also linked the living and the dead as the dead would be remembered through children.

#### EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA (VALUES PASSED ON TO CHILDREN)

Children were taught to respect the elderly people e.g. among the Baganda one would refer to his elder brother as baaba in way of according him respect.

Children were taught how to do domestic duties e.g. among the Basoga boys would be taught by their fathers how to clean the compound.

Children were taught the heart of sharing e.g. among the Iteso all children would eat from the same dish which helped them to avoid being selfish in future.

Children were taught to be self-reliant and to be creative such that they could be independent in future.

Children were taught the names of the family, the clan and their languages. This was for identity.

Children were taught about their environment e.g. among the Baganda, the grandparents would teach children names of different medicinal trees and grasses.

Children were taught to respect the values of sex as an adult duty which was to be taken holy.

Children were taught how to welcome visitors e.g. among the Baganda, visitors were meant to be welcomed with a smile and kneeling down while greeting them.

Children were taught to live as a community e.g. among the Iteso, harvesting was done communally.

The virtues of endurance and hardship were inculcated into the minds of children e.g. among the Bagishu boys would be circumcised and they were to heal without use of any painkillers a test which stretched their endurance to the limit.

Children were taught the aspect of body care e.g. among the Baganda, girls were taught never to let anyone know they were in their periods.

#### HOW CHILDREN WERE TAUGHT IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

Children were taught to imitate or copy the work of adults as this could introduce them slowly into doing particular tasks.

Children were rewarded for anything well done e.g. among the Basoga a father would give his son a praise upon doing something good to make him keep up in the same direction.

Punishments were also given for any wrong doing with the aim of eliminating the bad behaviour shown

Proverbs were also used in teaching children as such wise saying had hidden meanings.

The Africans also used riddles in educating their children. This was intended to sharpen the thinking ability of children and keep them alert.

Africans used plays and drama to educate the children. These plays were intended to bring out a real life situation in the community

Stories were also used to teach children. These stories were related to particular events in the life history of the people.

The Africans also used myths to educate their children. These were carefully developed to help in the teaching and learning process.

Threats were also used in the teaching process e.g. among the Baganda boys were threatened that if one sat on a fire stone, he would develop a hydrocele.

#### TEACHINGS ABOUT FAMILY LIFE IN THE EARLY CHURCH

Married couples were called upon to love each other

They also taught the need for respect among family members

Emphasis was put on monogamy in the family

Christians were encouraged to make their families permanent

Christians were also taught the necessity for unity in the family relationship

Christians were encouraged to marry pagans as they could easily change the non-believers into followers of Christ.

They encouraged the family members to be faithful to one another.

Family members were also taught the need to forgive one another in case of any wrong doing.

Family members were also taught the importance of praying together.

#### CHANGES MISSIONARIES BROUGHT IN AFRICAN FAMILIES

Missionaries introduced nuclear families as opposed to extended families.

Missionaries encouraged some family members to live single lives yet in traditional Africa, marriage was compulsory.

Missionaries called for equality of all family members as opposed to the superior status of men over women in the past.

Missionaries encouraged widows to live their own lives or choose when and whom to marry as opposed to African system of widow inheritance.

Missionaries introduced baptism of children to replace initiation rites.

Missionaries also put emphasis on monogamy as an ideal form of marriage as opposed to polygamy.

They encouraged freedom of choice of marriage partners as opposed to parental choice as it were in traditional Africa.

Missionaries also encouraged permanent family relationship as opposed to cases where divorce was allowed in traditional Africa.

They also encouraged respect of all family members as opposed to cases where the lame and those suffering from leprosy were treated as social outcasts.

They also encouraged family members to regularly pray to God instead of praying to the ancestors or gods.

#### THE OLD TESTAMENT TEACHING ABOUT FAMILY LIFE

Family life was instituted by God when He created males and females.

Equality in family relationship is emphasized

Sex is a divine gift between man and woman in the family.

Children had to be produced in a family that is why God commanded them to multiply and fill the world.

Monogamy is the ideal type of marriage in a family.

Man and woman are dependent on God in a family e.g. God provided some grains for Adam and Eve to eat in order to survive.

The man and woman were companions in the family e.g. Adam got happy when Eve was created for him.

The man and woman were complete in the presence of each other.

Man and woman were meant to live in joy and harmony with each other in the family relationship.

Unity is called for in a family relationship that is why a man would leave his father and mother and gets united to his wife.

Parents were called upon to bring up their children properly as a fulfillment of their obligation.

Children were called upon to respect their parents in a family relationship e.g. God rejected the two sons of priest Eli for disrespecting their father.

Parents were also instructed to discipline their children e.g. Priest Eli was rejected as a priest for failure to discipline his two sons.

The family was meant to be the centre of child education Proverbs 22:15

Marriage with in a family was meant to be permanent. Malachi 3:13-26

The basis of the family relationship was meant to be extended e.g. Abraham lived with his family and his nephew Lot.

#### THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING ON FAMILY LIFE

The New Testament teaches that family members should stay permanently in their relationship. Mark 10:9

It teaches the need for respect in the family relationship.

It teaches that the righteous belong to the family of God.

It calls for reconciliation and forgiveness among family members e.g. the prodigal son was forgiven by his father after wasting all his share of riches.

The New Testament calls upon family members to live in joy and be happy John 16:21

The New Testament calls upon family members to be united, that is why a man leaves his father and gets united to his wife.

The New Testament also calls upon family members to rely on Jesus in times of trouble.

The New Testament calls upon family members to satisfy the needs of others 1 cor 7:2 – 5

The NT teaches children to obey their parents e.g. Jesus obeyed His father and mother

Parents are also called upon to treat their children equally

The NT also calls upon parents to tolerate the behaviour of their children and just guide them accordingly

Parents are called upon to teach their children moral values of society

The NT also teaches the importance of love in a family relationship

Family members are also called upon to be humble to one another

The NT also calls for faithfulness in a family relationship

The family members are also called upon to be united

### SUBTHEME III: COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE

Courtship refers to the process of developing a close relationship with a person of opposite sex especially with an idea of marrying her or him.

Today it is commonly called dating.

Marriage is a formal, legal or recognized relationship between a man and woman who have agreed to live together as husband and wife.

#### NEW COURTSHIP PATTERNS

Today there are greater opportunities and more freedom of making their own choice to engage in courtship.

There are a number of meeting places where the youth meet and study each other

Young people have a right and attitude to choose their partners other than their parent's choice.

Mutual understanding grows as a result of freedom of expression to one another.

Fornication is part of modern courtship.

Love is expressed in form of exchanging of gifts such as addresses, flowers and cars among others.

During this period, partners feel like staying together all the time. The absence of each other is regrettable and can cause hysteria.

It is during this period that partners do things that make each other happy and also acquire different sex skills.

Partners during this period share secrets, likes and ideas without fear.

Partners visit each other and sometimes visits are made without notifying the other.

#### PROBLEMS YOUTH FACE DURING COURTSHIP.

Lack of clear guidance from the elders like parents, teachers

Isolation from friends and family members who may be against the choice of a partner

Lack of self-control which may lead to pre-marital sex and unwanted pregnancies

Lack of sex education which may cause many problems to people

There is a quick decision as a result of using love potions by some youth.

There are a number of disappointments which lead to frustrations, sickness, and death.

Conflicts are bound to arise in case one has more than one boy or girl friend.

Differences in culture which may cause people to carry out cultural rituals for the sake of keeping the relationship



Sometimes the youth have fear which leads to taking alcohol to get courage to talk.

There is wastage of time, resources and energy during courtship.

Forced marriage due unwanted pregnancies during courtship

Sometimes courtship causes indiscipline especially in schools and at the end of it the victims are expelled.

They face jealous from friends, relatives and other people.

Partners get limited time to study each other hence making bad choices of marriage partners

Conflicts with parents i.e. parents may disapprove of choice of their children.

Sometimes partners ignore important issues like background, morals and concentrate on romance and sex which make them regret in future.

#### HOW THE CHURCH HAS SOLVED THE ABOVE PROBLEMS OF COURTSHIP.

The church has requested the young to live within their incomes so as to solve the problem of expensive courtship.

Vocations and institutions owned by the church have trained young people to get skills so as to fight poverty.

The church has organized youth camps where instructions to the youth are given to control pre- marital sex

The church has written books on different relations including courtship and marriage to solve the problem of inadequate knowledge about sex education.

The church has encouraged the youth to join bible study so as to build up relationships with God hence solving the problem of cultural bias.

The church has taught parents to look at love rather than material gains from their daughters in order to solve the problem of separation in courtship.

It has encouraged people to take up religious virtues like respect their elders to solve the problem of conflicts with parents.

The church has encouraged the youth to forgive and forget hence solving the problem of enmity between the youth and parents.

The church has asked for the youth to test for HIV/AIDS and other medical problems from those intending to marry to solve the problem of poor health.

The church seeks approval from parents of both sides before the marriage is consecrated by religious leader hence solving the problem of rivalry in families.

The church has taught the dangers of fornication with the effects like diseases, unwanted pregnancies and disrespect especially if the relationship doesn't work out.

The church has instilled love among the couple in order to solve the problem of quarrelling.

## IMPORTANCE OF COURTSHIP

Courtship provides the best opportunity for the partner to show their love to each other

It enables the partners to discover each other's likes and dislikes

It exposes the partner's moral, background, habits, and makes them predict if they can stay together.

It helps the partners to adjust their behaviors in order to accommodate the incoming behavior.

It exposes the partner's family background since the partners can visit each other often.

It gives adequate time for the partners to know each other properly before going into the permanent relationship of marriage.

Partners learn each other's health conditions and seek for advice from medical persons for harmonious relationship.

It allows each partner to introduce each other to the relatives.

The partners can grow into a mutual understanding and give respect to one another.

It helps to solve the disagreements that may exist between the parents of the couples concerned.

The partners end up making proper choice of marriage partner due to the long time of interaction.

One comes to know how emotional he or she is. One gets to know how one reacts when confronted with real life situations.

It enables the concerned to understand each other's academic levels. This helps in knowing how liberal one's views are on various issues that may arise in marriage.

NB: DISADVANTAGES OF COURTSHIP (REFER TO THE PROBLEMS OF YOUTH COURTSHIP).

## IMPORTANCE OF MARRIAGE

Marriage brings about unity between the two families.

Marriage controls social evils like rape, incest, defilement as the partners become faithful to each other and satisfy each other's sexual desires.

It helps to give status to both the man and woman as they are recognized as legally married people.

The man and woman are able to give comfort and support to each other in times of stressful moments.

It fulfills God's plan for mankind as God commanded Adam and Eve to multiply and fill the world

There is sexual satisfaction between the man and woman. This cements love between the two partners.

Marriage proves that the man and woman are responsible and it means they are ready to fulfill their obligations.

Marriage provides wealth especially to the family of the girl in form of bride price

It provides a sense of belonging and identity since the community identifies them as husband and wife.

Marriage proves maturity of the man and the woman as the two can make independent decisions.

Marriage brings about blessings to the couple from religious leaders and the community at large.

It leads to promotion of culture of a given society

#### FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A MARRIAGE PARTNER

One should consider the following factors when choosing a marriage partner:

Age

Beauty/physical appearance

Moral character

Education and intelligence

Family background

Health status

Love

Cultural back ground

Common interests

Profession or jobs

Financial status

Faithfulness and honesty

#### FEATURES OF CHURCH MARRIAGE

The community of believers is also present to act as witnesses to this form of marriage.

The marriage ceremony takes place in a church premise or building.

It is conducted in the presence of parents and the church leaders for approval.

There is preparation of married couples which involve teaching them about sex education

Announcements are made in the church for a given period of time say two to three months.

There is exchange of matrimonial vows between the partners.

Partners promise to stay together as husband and wife permanently in all circumstances.

It involves giving certificates to couples and the certificates as a sign of commitment to each other

Monogamy is the type of marriage recognized.

There is exchange of wedding rings to act as a physical sign that the couple is legally married.

There is quality in the relationship between the husband and wife who play complementary roles to each other.

There is freedom of choice of marriage partners and marriage is guided by love with minimum parents' interference.

The marriage is built on a permanent basis.

#### ADVANTAGES OF CHURCH MARRIAGE

The married couple is given respect by the community members.

As the congregation or Christian gathering with the marriage becomes a public affair.

The marriage more legal since certificates are given to the married

There is guidance and counseling given to the couple by the religious leaders.

It brings about joy to the family members and the couples as the family members are actively involved.

The marriage is built on a permanent basis

The marriage is built on Christian virtues like humanity, faithfulness, love thus the marriage is stable.

Equality is promoted in the marriage since the couple is treated as equal

As it is presided over by a religious leader and in a church, the couple receives God's blessings

This type of marriage prevents marital unfaithfulness as the marriage is built on Christian virtues such as faithfulness, humanity, and love.

The husband and wife have enough time for each other since it is one husband and one wife in the marriage.

It fulfills God's command of marriage and procreation.

#### DEMERITS OF CHURCH MARRIAGE

QN: Why do some people fear Christian weddings today?

The marriage is expensive in forms of church fee, wedding, rings, marriage certificate, and wedding cake

Most men have preference for polygamy yet the church advocates for monogamy

The marriage itself promotes equality of man and woman which some men oppose.

Some people believe it is for the educated.

Very young people are left out yet today people go for marriage when they are still young.

Some of those intending to marry wonder which church or pastors to marry them.

Before Christians wed, they should be sure of HIV/ AIDS status yet most people fear to go for blood test.

It is more western than Christian faith itself.

Influence of traditional culture over the church. Some people have to fulfill the traditional obligations before the wedding.

Differences in religious denominations for example Muslims against Christians

Christians weddings have got alternatives like customary marriage, cohabitating etc.

The seriousness of the matrimonial vows makes one to become a slave in marriage

Bad examples from the married people

Some people have never gone to church and so they fear going to church for marriage.

Some fear to meet the demands of tradition like payment of bride wealth yet in some churches they consider it as a must.

## 2. CIVIL OR STATE MARRIAGE.

This is a marriage organized by the state. It takes place before a government official for example chief administrator officer (CAO), District commissioner (DC).

Features of a civil marriage

It takes place before a government official to whom the couples make their declaration and it is registered.

The marriage only needs the acceptance of the two partners intending to marry as the only formality.

Marriage is between two adults of the opposite sexes

The intention of the marriage is displayed on public notice board to enable the public to submit in their views on the marriage of the man and woman.

The marriage can be called off when the two prove incompatible to sustain the marriage bond.

A certificate is awarded to the couple to prove that the marriage is legal and the two are husband and wife.

The marriage is intended to be monogamous as the man is allowed to marry one wife.

It is less expensive and non- bureaucratic so it is easy to marry one another.

Incest is unacceptable and in case the couple is related in any way, the marriage is stopped.

People of different religions can be married since the person officiating on the ceremony is not a religious leader.

## 3. CUSTOMARY MARRIAGE.

This is marriage arranged according to the customs and traditions of two people involved.

## Features of a customary marriage

The marriage is provided over by the elders and parents. The couple receives blessings from elders and parents.

The ceremony takes place at the ancestral home of the woman. It is on this day that the woman is handed over officially to the man.

The choice of the partners is determined by the parents who arranged for the marriage. When individuals make choices, parental approval is necessary.

Virginity of the girl is highly valued although in some cultures for example among the Acholi and the Langi it is less important.

Marriage is sealed by the family of the boy paying bride wealth. The family of the men moves along with some items like cows, goats, beer and hands them over to the family of the woman.

Polygamy is recognized and accepted in this type of marriage i.e. the man is allowed to marry more than one wife.

Marriage arrangements are done by the community members like imparting sex education, payment of bride wealth and also making choice of the marriage partner.

The man holds a superior status than a woman in this type of marriage. The man is ahead of the family and he makes the final decisions.

The marriage is built on a permanent basis though sometimes the marriage can be called off.

Those intending to marry should be of different clans. People of the same clan were looked at as brother and sister.

## TRIAL MARRIAGES

This is when two people planning to get married decide to stay together before officially getting married.

## REASONS WHY PEOPLE PREFER TRIAL MARRIAGE

Bad example from people who are married in church and traditionally since they fight, quarrel and divorce

It is easy to organize as the concerned people do not have to inform others.

It is less costly as there is no hiring of tents, buying a gown, preparing a buffet among others.

Some cultures advocate it for example the Acholi demand that young people should first stay together before making their marriage official.

It enables the boy to accumulate and other materials to be used before bride wealth.

Decline in culture makes young people to go in for trial marriage

People want to test their fertility before commitment.

Decline in religion makes people to despise the Christian principle Christian marriage inclusive.

People fear to commit to each other and thus going for trial marriage which can be dissolved any time.

They want to test their partners sexually before marriage i.e. in most cases they pick the best choice.

It allows the partners to study each other's character and then take a decision.

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF MARRIAGES TODAY

There is freedom of choice for marriage partner.

Monogamy is much emphasized as the ideal type of marriage due to western religious influence.

Polygamy still exists in some communities as men who are well off marry more than one wife.

There is equality of husband and wife as far as family responsibility is concerned

Intermarriages are common today as a man can choose to marry a woman of a different tribe

Most people prefer church marriage to any other type of marriage

Divorce is common in this marriage e.g. former vice president Naigaga Wandera Kazibwe divorced her late husband Engineer Kazibwe.

There are many cases of marital unfaithfulness in form of adultery.

Celibacy or living single life is very common today.

The purpose of marriage today is for companionship, mutual love and support. This love is supposed to be exhibited to the partner and children.

#### MONOGAMY

It is a marriage where there is only a man and woman associating as husband and wife.

#### ADVANTAGES

It is easy to maintain economically

Decisions making is easy as one has only one wife.

Monogamy fulfills the intention of marriage Gen2:18-21, husband leaves his parents and stay with his wife and the two become one and live as companions.

It promotes a stable marriage since it is easy to reach an agreement in the times of misunderstandings.

It reduces the risk of contracting sexually transmitted disease like AIDS/HIVS, gonorrhea, syphilis

The security of the children together with their mother is guaranteed which reduces the suffering of the two.

In this type marriage, fewer children are produced which controls the population pressure

It is easier to discipline children in this type of marriage since children belong to the same mother and father.

It is easier to do family planning since there is no competition in producing children.

Due to the love, comfort, mutual support between the couple, they act as good role models for their children.

The husband and wife have enough time for each other. This cements the marriage relationship

The husband and wife can sexually satisfy one another.

It promotes friendship between children and parents. The members can easily realize that they are one.

## DISADVANTAGES

It sometimes causes divorce especially in situations of poor health, perpetual indiscipline and continuous quarrels.

There can be limited labour force due to the few members and this reduces production.

It can lead sexual to starvation on the side of the man when the woman is in ill health

It encourages prostitution, adultery, concubinage in case the man is sexually dissatisfied when the woman is pregnant or after delivery.

It limits the extension of the bond of kinship

Monogamy limits the chances of woman to get married in cases where men are fewer than women.

The marriage may end up childless in case one of partner is infertile or barren. This can become a source of conflicts in marriage.

Incase of any external aggressions, the family members may fail to defend themselves.

One of the partners may live a life of stress incase the partner's behaviour is bad e.g. a rumormongering partner may stress the other throughout life.

The one wife in the family is over worked as she does the entire domestic work alone. This leaves her too tired to do other roles in marriage like sexual satisfaction to the husband.

Incase of death, chronic diseases like sickle cells, the family may lose all the children and remain childless or have unhealthy children.

Some look at it as a disregard of African culture yet they value polygamous marriages which come along with large number of children.

## POLYGAMY

It is a marriage arrangement where a man is married to more than one wife at the same time.

## ADVANTAGES OF POLYGAMY IN THE AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY



It provided man with abundant cheap labour

It maintained harmony and co-operation in the home i.e. in case the first wife fell sick or died or went for a visit, others would take care of the children and the husband left behind.

The social links in the society increased and extending relationships as a man married from different clans, tribes and families.

It was a status symbol and a sign of prestige. Such polygamous men would be much more honourable and that is why they were given leadership posts in the society.

It reduced on unfaithfulness, prostitution and adultery in the society as men were sexually satisfied and all women would be atleast married.

It was a sign of wealth and economic booster. Women were considered as part of men's wealth and even daughters amassed wealth through bride wealth for example in western Uganda, every daughter bone meant a number of cows secured in the family.

Polygamy led to competition as many wives were hardworking and this led to high production and efficiency.

It provided solutions to unforeseen marital problems like the infertility of the first wife or growing older.

Polygamy gave sexual satisfaction to the man because of the many wives he was married to. In case one wife was weak, he would have it with another.

Polygamy ensured production of many children of different sex, appearance and intelligence.

It gave chance for a great number of women to get married thus resulting into stable marriage in the society.

The members were able to defend themselves in cases of any outside aggression because of the many boys who were born outside the polygamous marriages.

The security of the children was secured as there was no rivalry between the co-wives which would lead to the suffering of the children.

#### DISADVANTAGES OF POLYGAMY

It is against God's original plan for marriage since God created one man and one woman thus monogamy was the ideal type of marriage by God.

It is costly to maintain such a type of marriage.

There is disunity in the family as children tend to follow and give respect to their only father and biological mother.

There is easy spread of sexually transmitted diseases. In case one partner is affected then the other partners and the children born are going to be affected.

There is a high possibility of sexual dissatisfaction on the side of women as it is rare for a single man to satisfy all the women.

The children may end up being undisciplined since the father usually gets little time to discipline all the children.

Fights, quarrel and misunderstandings are common in polygamous

The children in polygamous marriage lack proper love and care. This is because the children are many and it becomes difficult for a man to express his love equally to them.

It dehumanizes the woman because in most cases the husband looks at his wife as a mere property and source of labour, sex among other.

Polygamy makes the man overworked sexually and reduces him to a mere robot and a sexual machine to satisfy the wives sexually.

Decision making becomes difficult on the side of the family head because of the too many.

The marriage is affected by the practice of witchcraft as a result of members especially the wives feeling insecure.

Women live in fear of expecting the husband to bring in a new wife thus leading to division of love between the wives.

#### REASONS FOR THE PRESISTENCE OF POLYGAMOUS MARRIAGES

To some men it is a source of prestige as men become proud because they can provide to all their wives.

Due to religious influence. Some religions allow men to marry morethan one wife for example Islam allows a man to marry upto four wives if he can care for them.

To some men the desire to be sexually satisfied lures them into having polygamous marriages.

The need to have children of different sex, appearance and intelligence especially if the first wife was producing only boys or girls or dull or ugly children

Poor healthof the first wife may force the man to marry another wife.

Intolerable behavior of the first wife like being quarrelsome, witch, impatient

Influence of riches may force a man to marry many women since he can take good care of them

Some men just want to maintain the African culture of marrying many wives and producing many children.

Influence of peers or friends to marry morethan one wife. Some men lure their friends into polygamy by showing them the benefits it brings.

Some men have a feeling that they made a wrong choice at first. Later they marry another woman to gain their happiness.

Whenthe first wife becomes old and unattractive to the husband

#### CAUSES OF THE UNMARRIED STATE TODAY

Some people remain unmarried because of religious commitment forexample catholic priests and nuns.

Some people fear responsibilities like buying food, paying schoolfees, and other necessities.

Some remain unmarried simply because they fail to get suitable partners.

**Some people have gone through bad experiences that may make them fear to get married for example rape.**

Due to peer influence

Failure to pay bride wealth can force people to remain unmarried

Fear of sexually transmitted diseases like AIDS can make people fear to get married.

Family background makes some people fail to marry for example night dancers and witchdoctors

Some people are mentally and physically incapable of getting married like mad people.

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF A HAPPY MARRIAGE TODAY

A happy marriage is one blessed with children.

One where there is love, trust and forgiveness.

One which is approved and blessed by parents of both partners

One where cultural responsibilities have been fulfilled like paying payment of dowry and circumcision

One which is characterized with faithfulness among the partners

One where partners contribute to economic welfare of the family

One which is religious for it creates and promotes peace and unity in a home.

One with well-disciplined children i.e. those obedient to parents and other elders

One where there is provision of basic necessities of life like food, accommodation among others.

#### CAUSES OF DIVORCE

The following are the causes of divorce.

Excessive drinking of alcohol as it leaves one partner sick, violent and sometimes one a social misfit.

Poverty since it makes one incapacitated to provide the basic needs

Domestic violence in form of fights quarrels causes divorce.

Diseases especially the incurable ones like sickle cells and cancer lead to divorce.

Negative influence of the relatives especially the parents

Undisciplined children in the home can cause divorce since the partners can keep on blaming each other.

Sexual dissatisfaction leads to divorce.

Childlessness in the family causes divorce. One partner begins looking for children outside marriage hence divorce.

Age difference is a source of divorce. Partners end up having different interests which thus misunderstandings in marriage.

Incase one partner is found decides to divorce with his or her partner.

Political differences as partner support different political parties.

Cultural differences do cause divorce. Partners may be doing things differently in the marriage and failure to resolve the differences, makes the marriage come to an end.

Distant employment as partners work in different areas can cause divorce.

Difference in the level of education is responsible for divorce. Partners end up undermining each other and sometimes communication barrier develops up.

Religious differences can cause divorce. Choosing a religion for the children becomes a problem and division based on religious lines crop up thus the end of the marriage.

#### REASONS WHY DIVORCE WAS NOT COMMON IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

The practice of polygamy which solved the problem of childlessness, so a barren wife could not be divorced

Children were given adequate sex education during and after marriage. So they knew very well their marital roles before going in to marriage.

The married were highly expected to be faithful especially the women. Girls were expected to maintain their virginity. So this kept the marriage.

There was less cultural fusion as men married women from the same cultural background. This limited conflicts and made marriage stable.

The active involvement of elders on both sides made divorce almost impossible. Divorce would be difficult because incase of problems family members intervened.

Marriage was an alliance of two families and this made divorce difficult because in case of problem the two families would intervene.

Marriage was a social institution where the whole society got involved hence divorce was taken as betraying the whole society.

Marriage was compulsory in African society and single life was a curse. This made marriage very stable and respected.

The payment of bride wealth in big quantities lessened chances of divorce because on divorce bride wealth was returned.

Moral education was highly valued and children were trained good behaviours, roles and responsibilities which made marriages stable.

Marriage had a number of taboos customs and superstitions and people feared to break them as they were associated with a number of curses.

The young learnt examples from their parents and elders who never divorced. So they lived in their marriages until death.

Ancestors were consulted before marriage and this meant that it was only the ancestors to approve even divorce.

The long period of courtship helped one to get good marriage partner, so this ruled out the possibility of divorce.

Marriage was the only way of bearing children and this made marriage permanent.

#### CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN DIVORCE WAS PERMITTED IN THE AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY.

Incase marriage between close relatives took place.

Incase a man failed to complete the payment of bride wealth within the expected period of time

If the couple belongs to the same clans e.g. among the Baganda, they would be forced to divorce since they were considered as brother and sister.

Incase there was marital unfaithfulness especially on the side of the woman

In case of prolonged sickness like bleeding of the woman, such a partner seemed useless as she could be costly to maintain.

In situations where a man or woman proved to be very lazy and irresponsible

Incase of disrespect of relatives of the man, divorce would be sought for.

In case of evil practices like witchcraft, divorce would occur. The other partner's life was threatened and the marriage was brought to an end.

Incase of infertility of the woman, divorce would be sought for. This was because children played a vital role in the African setting.

Incase of constant beating or fights between the partners. This was because such would cause bodily injuries and sometimes death.

When the woman became too old thus becoming unattractive to the men the couple could be told to part ways. The man would then marry a young woman.

When one partner failed to sexually satisfy the other, then divorce would take its course. This was done to avoid marital unfaithfulness like adultery.

In cases where the woman was giving birth to only boys or girls (single sex) divorce would be permitted. This was especially true if only girls were being produced.

#### BRIDE WEALTH

These are gifts of appreciation taken by the family of the boy to the family of the girl before marriage. Bride wealth includes payment of animals like cows, goats, sheep chicken or anything else agreed upon by the community or custom.

These vary from society to society but it's a common practice in patrilineal societies.

## IMPORTANCE OF BRIDE WEALTH

It acted as a form of compensation to the parents of the girl for her services

It was a symbol of unity not only between the two families involved in the marriage alliance but also between the husband and wife to be.

It was given as a sign of appreciation

It was a kind of marriage certificate since it verified that marriage was legal/ lawful.

Bride wealth enabled the brother of the girl to also marry because through their sisters' dowry, they were able to pay bride wealth for their wives.

The groom clearly proved to the family of the bride that he was able to economically support their daughter in marriage.

Bride wealth stabilized marriage as it discouraged divorce. It became very difficult to refund or to recover dowry in case of divorce.

It was an expression of community interests in marriage e.g. among the Bahima many people contribute to towards the payment of the bride wealth.

It encouraged proper care and upbringing of the girl especially by teaching them to be hardworking, disciplined and to preserve their virginity until marriage.

Bride wealth provided some material support for the parents at old age at a time when all their children had left i.e. acted as insurance for the old age.

Through bride wealth, the ancestors came to bear witness to the marriage contracts. Since both the living and the dead were involved, the dead got their share through the sacrifices offered.

It expressed respect to parents of the girl and the girl chosen. This was why one worked tirelessly to meet the demands made.

## DISADVANTAGES OF BRIDE WEALTH

Bride wealth sometimes brings conflicts between the families concerned especially if there is failure to complete the bride wealth.

It promotes domestic violence in families where the men mistreat their wives due to the wealth they charged.

Greedy parents end up marrying off their daughters while still young so as to get wealth.

Parents see their daughters as a source of wealth and demand a lot of bride wealth.

High demand for bride wealth leads to poverty on side of the groom.

Boys overwork and sometimes delay to marry due to failure to get the required bride wealth

It deprives one his or her choice if what is demanded in bride wealth is not met.

It reduces the woman's dignity as she is looked at as an object to be purchased by the man

It discourages equality of men and women where the man becomes superior and the wife brought becomes inferior.

Bride wealth compels young men into illegal acts such as theft, corruption, burglary in order to get bride wealth

Some young men could choose to abandon their cultures due to the expensive bride wealth and promotes foreign marriage or elopement that seems less costly.

## FORNICATION(PRE-MARITAL SEX)

Fornication refers to sexual intercourse between a man and woman before marriage. It's a common problem to the youth who are engaging in courtship.

## CAUSES OF FORNICATION

Permissiveness in the society

The advanced technology of making condoms pills to avoid pregnancies reduction of acquiring sexually transmitted diseases gives room for the youth to engage in sex.

Peer pressure as friends lure others to take up the act as a way of fitting in the group

High libido (high sexual desires) has forced a number of youth to engage in sex.

Poor dressing code in form of mini-skirts, body tight among others has caused fornication.

To some youth it is out of curiosity i.e. the desire to find out the truth about sex after being told by their colleagues.

Prolonged courtship has made the youth vulnerable to sexual intercourse. This is because partners get much closer.

Some girls engage in fornication for fear of being rejected by their boyfriends incase they refuse to have sex with them.

Too much desire for material wealth especially the girls some girls are ready to exchange sex for money and phones with elderly men.

Some youth have the attitude that practice makes perfect, we learn by doing.

Lack of sex education as the youth see it very normal to engage in sex before marriage

Influence of pornographic materials which create the desire for having sexual intercourse.

Young people want to prove manhood and fertility i.e. they want to find out whether they function well

Influence of western culture in that some youth copy western ways of living and behaving like kissing.

## PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH FORNICATION.

It is a sin before God

There is high possibility of unwanted pregnancies.

It leads to acquisition of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) like HIV syphilis gonorrhea.

It leads to school dropout especially when the girl drops out of school prematurely.

It can lead to imprisonment after having sex with the under aged

It can lead to barrenness or infertility in the youth when the pregnancy is aborted thus the ovary becoming infertile.

It leads to loss of virginity in the youth.

The experience may create fear among the youth because of the pain and this may create fear of the opposite sex.

It can make one become a second hand partner or off layer due to frequent abortions.

It creates false love by boys to girls. This is because after fornication, the boys tend to neglect the girls as the girl yearns for the boy in vain.

It makes one to lose respect in the community. This is especially true if the couple splits and the public gets to know about it.

It can lead to parental rejection especially if the parents disapproved the act of fornication. This makes the child miss out on basic needs of life.

Girls may be given nicknames as a result of having loose character. Such names may be second hand, public socket.

## CASES OF SEX ABUSE

Fornication: This is sex before marriage and it is sometimes referred to as pre- marital sex.

Prostitution: This where people engage in sex in return for money or material benefits and other favours.

Adultery: This is the act of having sex outside marriage relationship. It is also known as extra marital sex.

Homosexuality: This refers to having sex between members of the same sex. If it is between men they called gays and if women they called lesbians.

Defilement: This is the act of having sex with under aged person. For the case of Uganda it is below 18 years.

Rape: This is sex by force or having sex without some ones consent.

Masturbation: This is the act as obtaining sexual satisfaction by manipulation of one's sexual organs inorder to get sexually satisfied.

Incest: This is sex between people who are closely related forexample mother and son, father and daughter, brother and sister.

Bestiality: This is having sexual intercourse with animals like pigs cows goats etc.

## GENERAL CAUSES OF SEX ABUSE/ MISUSE/ DEVIATION



Peer pressure or group especially in single schools.

Absence of the opposite sex

Lack of self-esteem to approach the opposite sex

Curiosity i.e. experimenting and the desire to find out

Bad examples within society

Influence of the mass media especially internet, surfing pornography

Fearing to take on responsibility like unwanted pregnancy.

Lack of parental guidance

Failure to control sexual desires i.e. high libido

Abnormality of some people

Lack of sex education programme for the youth

Previous disappointment from the opposite sex

Due to poverty some young boys lured into sodomy by the affluent whites in order to get money.

## MARRIAGE IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

The following were the characteristics of marriage in traditional African societies.

Marriage was a community affair e.g. in Busoga, the community offered sex education, made choice of the marriage partner and also contributes the bride wealth.

Marriage was for the production of children e.g. in Busoga the children produced sealed the marriage, acted as a link between the living, dead and the future generations.

Virginity was highly valued by most African traditional societies e.g. in Buganda, girl who was married when still a virgin would earn her parents and relatives a lot of respect, pride and special gifts.

Marriage was characterized by full payments of bride wealth e.g. among the Iteso, before payment of bride price, the partners could not stay together.

It was a customary type of marriage that was conducted in most cases following the customs of the girl's society.

Marriage was polygamous e.g. among the Basoga, the more wives one had the more prestigious he became in the society.

Marriage was compulsory for every adult e.g. in Busoga, if one was reluctant to marry, a marriage partner would be chosen for him.

There was widow inheritance because a wife married to the whole family in ATS.

Marriage was meant to be between partners of the same tribe e.g. among the Bahima, intermarriage was forbidden and in case it happened the couple would be isolated by the community.

Marriage was a sacred obligation to be fulfilled by every adult.

Marriage was to be between people of different clans e.g. in Buganda one from the Ngeye clan could not marry in the same clan as the two were considered brother and sister.

In marriage, the husband was superior to the wife. The man was the head of the family and all family authority and decisions rested on him.

When choosing a marriage partner, parents and relatives had a hand in making the decision e.g. in Teso parents chose for their children partners when they were still young or even booked a pregnancy.

#### WAYS IN WHICH AFRICAN MARRIAGES WERE KEPT STABLE.

Through informal education where sex education and moral instructions were given to people preparing for marriage. They were helped on how to conduct themselves in marriage.

Courtship was done by the parents and other concerned relatives who could therefore make the right choice for their children.

Polygamy was encouraged and this helped women to be disciplined because they knew they had other competitors and also the husband was annoyed with one wife he would go to another.

Respect was observed and the woman in particular was trained to be respectful and submissive to their husband.

Bride wealth was encouraged and had to be paid before marriage and this made a woman to preserve due to fear of paying back bride wealth in case she divorced.

By following all important cultural rituals for example polygamy, circumcision, naming of children

Punishments were given to all those who misbehaved during marriage like those who committed adultery would be divorced or caned thoroughly.

Pre-marital sex was punishable by burning one alive, throwing one from a cliff and virgins were rewarded with a she-goat.

Children were produced and these created a strong bond between the marriage partners and the woman had to stay in marriage in order to bring up her children.

Family disputes were settled by the elders in the community and this helped many to have stable marriages.

Marriage was compulsory and public affair and this is why divorce was discouraged because it needed participation of the whole community to consent it.

Women were inferior in all aspects of life and they agreed to stay in that position and therefore they had to be disciplined and submissive.

#### CHOICE OF A MARRIAGE PARTNER IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

Choice of partner was done by the individual and later their parents would do the negotiations e.g. among the Karamojong, a boy would chase a girl and if they eloped then the negotiations would be made.

Parents would also make choices for their children by identifying a potential partner for their children. At times they would declare their intentions or make arrangements before the children were born.

Choice of a marriage partner was also done by relatives who were in charge of the marriage affairs e.g. in Busoga it were the uncles and the aunt who would identify partners for the boys and girls in the family.

Sometimes it would be through capturing the girl e.g. among the Bahima, the boy would abduct a girl with help of other boys and the bride wealth would be paid later upon the parents acceptance.

In some societies, fights or wrestling was made between the boy and the girl and if the boy won, then the boy would take the girl for marriage.

Sometimes marriage partners were got through elopement where a boy and a girl would secretly begin living together.

The choice was sometimes made through excitements and emotions especially during a beer party e.g. among the Iteso, a parent would give in his son or daughter as a result of happiness on a beer party.

Some people got good partners through widow inheritance e.g. among the Basoga, upon the death of the husband, the brother or male relatives would take the wife.

In some cases a go between or a mediator would be used to declare the intentions of the boy

Others got partners as gifts e.g. among the Bahima, girls would be given out as gifts to friends and sometimes as a token of appreciation.

Through initiation ceremonies like circumcision e.g. among the Bagishu after circumcision it was a must for the boy to pick a girl suitable for marriage.

Booking the womb of the expectant mother for the boy before the child is even born. This depended on the relationship between the two families.

Through contracts as parents could enter a contract with another family to ensure that marriage takes place between the two families.

Through friendship development during communal work. In this case the young people could meet and fall in love and if the friendship went deeper then relatives would get concerned and organize formal courtship.

#### QUALITIES CONSIDERED FOR A MARRIAGE PARTNER IN A T S.

The family background of the boy or the girls was considered.

The health status of either the boy or girl was considered. The partner had to be free from diseases like leprosy epilepsy, sickle cells among others.

Each partner had to be hardworking.

Cultural background of each partner was considered.

The economic status especially of the boy was considered when choosing a marriage partner. The boy had to have wealth like cattle, land to prove capable that he would take care of the wife.

On the side of the girls, it was important that the girl was a virgin.

They also considered the beauty of the girl. Girls with waistlines and beads around their necks, arms were very much admired by the boys.

They considered the clan of each partner. Partners were meant to be of different clans since those of the same clan were considered as brother and sister.

The characters of the partners were also considered. They partners had to possess respect, kindness, humility, honesty among others.

Each partner had to possess the quality of hospitality by being welcoming and getting along easily with everyone in the community.

Heroism, if one was brave and skilled at doing something, he was at an advantage for example skilled hunters, warriors among others.

Fulfillment of initiation rites e.g. among the Bagishu one was denied a partner if he was uncircumcised.

Productivity, a woman had to be fertile because in A T S, the major reason for marrying was to produce children.

## COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE IN THE CHURCH HISTORY

Early church.

There was freedom of choice of marriage partner by both the boys and girls.

Monogamy was the ideal type of marriage and generally accepted by the society.

There was no fixed marriage ceremony among the Christians.

There were a number of divorce cases among the married partners.

Prostitution became rampant especially in cities like Corinth and it was regarded as temple prostitution but St Paul discouraged it.

The married couples were expected to live permanently in marriage while loving and respecting each other.

Some Christians opted for polygamy instead of monogamy, much as the church came out and condemned it.

Christians came up with a number of questions on marriage and these were;

Whether a Christian would marry a pagan

Whether Christians should go ahead and marry or stay single or celibates.

Whether widows were free to go ahead and re-marry.

Whether the married Christians were allowed to engage in sex.

However St Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians 7:1-40 gave his opinions on their questions.

## MIDDLE AGES

It was during this time that the church split into two i.e. the western church (Catholics) and the Eastern Church (Anglicans).

The Eastern Church encouraged its followers to marry especially the religious leaders.

But the western church advocated for celibacy especially for the religious leaders for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The marriage laws were written down in books and the Christians were called upon to follow them strictly.

Marriage ceremonies came in place and all those intending to marry were expected to observe.

Marriage became sacred and for one to attain salvation he or she had to undergo through it.

## HOW MISSIONARIES REACTED TO THE AFRICAN MARRIAGES.

Missionaries emphasized monogamy as the ideal Christian marriage. Many African Christians were therefore forced to send away other women to achieve this ideal marriage.

The missionaries always emphasized freedom of choice of marriage partner thus discouraging the parental interference.

They emphasized equality between the husband and the wife by teaching that the two were created in the image of God.

They encouraged the married partners to have love for each other and the same time respect each other.

They encouraged baptism of children rather than initiation rites like child naming, circumcision of the male children.

They encouraged the husband and wife to stay permanently in their marriages. They taught that what God has put together no one can separate.

They introduced Christian weddings for the couple. Since then all Christian churches have insisted on wedding for members to receive God's blessings in their marriage.

They discouraged the payment of bride wealth, they looked at it as exchange of women for marriage. This was lowering their status.

They also introduced celibacy for the sake of the gospel yet the Africans advocated for marriage for all.

They were so much against the idea of widow inheritance by saying that such women had the right to decide whether to remarry or not.

## COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Monogamy is the ideal type of marriage Gen 2:18-25.

By God creating human beings as male and female with unique sexual features, God was initiating marriage.

Husband and wife are equal in marriage because man and woman were created in the image and likeness of God Gen 1:27

Marriage is for procreation

Bride wealth/ bride service is acknowledged for example Jacob offered bride service for seven years to the family of Rachael were in courtship for seven years before marriage.

Marriage is a permanent union.

Courtship is recognized for example Jacob and Rachael were in courtship for seven years.

Faithfulness in marriage is encouraged. In Duet 20:14, the Israelites are discouraged from committing adultery.

Man and woman are to act as co- creators in work in order to bring the world under their control.

Sex is a divine gift in marriage.

Love is an integral part in marriage according to Hosea 3:1.e.g. God told Hosea to show love to his unfaithful wife Gomer.

The man and woman complement each other in marriage.

There has to be unity in marriage

## COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Jesus re-affirms monogamy as the ideal type of marriage

Jesus encouraged permanency in marriage instead of divorce. (mark 10:9).

Jesus calls for forgiveness in marriage for example He forgave the woman who was caught in adultery yet the law commended stoning to death.

Jesus encourages unity among the married couple mark 10:7

Jesus teaches that a man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery and so is the woman(mark 10:11)

St Paul urges those who cannot control themselves from sexual immoralities to go ahead and marry because marriage is approved by God.

St Paul stresses the need of married partners to satisfy each other's sexual needs to avoid temptations except only during prayers.

The New Testament advocates for celibacy too for the sake of concentrating on serving God, Mathew 19:11-12, ICor 7:29-31.

St Paul encourages every man to have his own wife and every woman to have her own husband.

Paul encourages total submission to each other by saying that a wife is not a master of her own body but the husband is and the husband is not the master of his own body but the wife is (ICOR 7:4).

St Paul encourages marriage of a believer and a nonbeliever because the good acts of the believers may make the nonbeliever to convert.

St Paul advised husbands to live with their wives with the proper understanding that they are a weaker sex.

St Paul disapproves outward beauty like hairstyles, expensive dresses and advocates for the beauty of the inner self.

St Paul encourages widows to re marry but with a condition that a man must be a believer (I Cor 7:39).

LOVE, SEX IN MARRIAGE, RESPECT, SUBMISSIVENESS, MONOGAMY, PERMANACY, CELIBACY, FAITHFULLNESS, KINDNESS, TRUSTWORTHINESS, GOD BEING CENTRAL FACTOR, FORGIVING, RECONCILIATION, FREE FROM INCEST, HETROSEXUAL, FOR PROCREATION